

Current Status of Claims

1. (*original*) An apparatus for disintegrating degradable or non-degradable material, wherein the apparatus has a functional unit in the form of a rotatable knife unit driven by a motor (2) via a mechanical power transmission device (7) which comprises as part thereof a flywheel (8),

characterised in

- that the functional unit has knife blade (51) which on rotation in a chamber (4) is designed to move along a chamber wall, wherein at least a part of the wall has perforations;
- 10 - that the mechanical power transmission device (7) comprises a mechanism in the form of a clutch (9) which provides sudden power engagement with coupling device (10) and thence with the knife unit (1) , said mechanism comprising one or more movable engagement blocks which are mounted on a guide device (28', 28", 15 29', 29", 32, 33) and designed, through centrifugal force during increasing rotation of the flywheel (8), to move radially outwards either gradually or suddenly, and at a predetermined rotational speed, to engage with engagement means, e.g., a block or blocks on a rotating part (37) of the coupling device, e.g., a rotating plate, 20 which forms a further connection to the functional unit.

2. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 1, characterised in

- that the mechanism is designed to be deactivated either by reversing the normal rotational direction of the motor, or on cessation of the rotation of the flywheel, or in that the rotational 5 speed of the flywheel is below a predetermined disengagement threshold.

3. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 1 [~~or 2~~], characterised in
- that the engagement time of the mechanism as a function of the rotational speed of the flywheel is adjustable.
4. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 1, [~~2 or 3~~], characterised in
- that the coupling device consists of an adjustable slip coupling.
5. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one or more of claims 1—4~~], characterised in
- that the mechanism is designed, when a certain rotational speed of the flywheel has been reached, to cause a sudden engagement between the flywheel and the further mechanical transmission to the functional unit via the coupling device.
6. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one or more of the preceding claims~~], characterised in
- that the rotational energy of the functional unit alone accounts for 2-50% of the total rotational energy represented by the motor, the power transmission device including the flywheel, and the knife unit.
7. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one or more of the preceding claims~~], characterised in
- that said knife blade forms an angle with the rotational axis of the functional unit.

8. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one of more of the preceding claims~~], characterised in
- that said knife blade is replaceable and/or adjustable.
9. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one of more of the preceding claims~~], characterised in
- that the functional unit consists of a hub from which arms project, which at their outer end form a mount for said knife blade, and
 - 5 - that the hub and the arms are moulded in a single piece of a lightweight material, e.g., aluminium or reinforced plastic.
10. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one of more of claims 1—8~~], characterised in
- that the functional unit consists of a hub from which arms project, which at their outer end form a mount for said knife blade, and
 - 5 - that the hub and the arms are formed of two moulded, identical, joinable parts of a lightweight material, e.g., aluminium or reinforced plastic.
11. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 1** [~~one of more of the preceding claims~~], characterised in
- that said knife blade is designed on rotation along the chamber wall to move past at least one counter-knife (54) mounted on the
 - 5 chamber wall, and
 - that the position of the counter-knife is adjustable.

12. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 1, wherein at least one pair of blocks is used, characterised in

- that the guide device consists of an articulated arm device common to the pair of blocks whose articulated arms are pivotally fastened to the flywheel.

13. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 1, characterised in

- that there is provided at least one pair of diametrically arranged engagement blocks.

14. (*original*) An apparatus for the transmission of power from a motor (2) to a functional unit (1) via a flywheel (8) which forms a part of a power transmission device (7), characterised in

- 5 - that the transmission device (7) comprises as part thereof a mechanism (9) in the form of a clutch (9) which has means for sudden power engagement with a coupling device (10), and wherein the clutch mechanism (9) forms further connection with the functional unit;
- 10 - that said mechanism (9) consists of one or more movable engagement blocks (28, 29), which are mounted on a guide device (28', 28'', 29', 29'', 32, 33) ,
- that power transmission to the functional unit (1, 4) is designed to take place when the rotational speed of the flywheel (8) passes a defined threshold value; and
- 15 - that the block or blocks are designed, through centrifugal force during the increasing rotational speed of the flywheel, to move radially outwards either gradually or suddenly, and at a predetermined rotational speed, to engage with engagement means (37', 37''), e.g., a block or blocks on a rotating part (37) of the
- 20 coupling device (10), e.g., a rotating plate, which is a part of the power transmission device (7) and which forms further connection to the functional unit (1).

15. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in

- 5 - that said mechanism is deactivatable either by reversing the normal rotational direction of the motor, or on cessation of the rotation of the flywheel, or in that the rotational speed of the flywheel is below a predetermined threshold value.

16. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 14 [~~or 15~~], characterised in

- that time-to-engagement of the mechanism is adjustable as a function of the rotational speed of the flywheel.

17. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 14, wherein at least one pair of blocks is used, characterised in

- that the guide device consists of an articulated arm device common to the pair of blocks whose articulated arms are pivotally connected to the flywheel.

18. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in

- that there is provided at least one pair of diametrically arranged engagement blocks.

19. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 14** [~~one or more of claims 14—18~~], characterised in

- that the coupling device comprises an adjustable slip coupling.

20. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 14** [~~one or more of claims 14—19~~], characterised in

- that the mechanical transmission engagement or disengagement of the flywheel is centrifugal force based.

21. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 14** [~~one or more of claims 14—20~~], characterised in

- that the power transmission device is designed, in the event of a predetermined working resistance being exceeded, to cause at least partial deactivation of said mechanism for disconnection of power transmission from the device to the functional unit;
- that said deactivation involves the flywheel with its rotational energy being mechanically disconnected from the coupling device; and
- that said disconnection of the rotational energy of the flywheel is centrifugal force controlled.

22. (*currently amended*) An apparatus as disclosed in **claim 14** [~~one or more of claims 1—21~~], characterised in

- that the functional unit is designed and **dimension** [~~dimension~~] to disintegrate or compact articles selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) articles in the form of packaging, for example, bottles, cans, beverage cartons, trays or boxes, and accessories for same;
 - b) articles made of plastics material, glass, light metal or thin metal, e.g., tin;
 - c) articles of biologically degradable material, for instance, wood, plants, plant debris, paperboard, starch-based material and cellulose-based material;
 - d) packaging of biologically degradable material selected from paperboard, starch-based material and cellulose-based material.

23. (*original*) An apparatus as disclosed in claim 22, characterised in that the apparatus is designed and dimensioned for handling or processing articles elected from group a) in a reverse vending machine.